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SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the Year

1961



PRINTED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF

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Shorthand Typist to Medical Officer, Surveyor
and Public Health Inspector Miss C.E. Hardiker.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health, Water and Highways Committee.

Housing Committee.

Finance Committee - Improvement Grants.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
NEW STREET,
HONITON.

Telephone: Honiton 391.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Sidmouth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have again tried to broaden the public health picture
by commenting where necessary on services provided by Devon County Council.

The main body of the report has once more been compiled by
the Public Health Inspector and his staff, and I should like to record my
appreciation for this, and express my thanks to the Council for their
continued support throughout the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

R.C. MACLEOD,

Medical Officer of Health.



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1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA:

Area	11,475 acres.
Population	11,139 (Census April, 1961) 10,270 (Registrar General's Estimate)
Number of Habitable Houses	3,997 (1.4.1962)
Rateable Value	£215,554 (1.4.1962)
Penny Rate Produces	£865. (1.4.1962)

NOTE: As will be seen, the Registrar General apparently still finds it necessary to give an estimated figure twelve months after the true census figure of 11,139 taken in April 1961 has been received, and this estimated figure is approximately 1,000 less than the census figure. If the increase has been 400 as estimated for the whole year, the true population should have increased by approximately 300 for the eight months, making a figure for the year in the region of 11,400.

2. VITAL STATISTICS:

The previous year's figures have been included so that comparisons can be made.

LIVE BIRTHS

1960 - (48 males, 43 females)	91
3 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 91.	
Crude live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	9.2
Corrected live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.3
1961 - (58 males, 62 females)	120
11 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 120.	
Crude live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.7
Corrected live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	9.2

STILL BIRTHS

1960 - (4 stillbirths were registered - 1 illegitimate)	4
Total live and stillbirths	95
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	42.1
1961 - (1 male, 1 female - 0 illegitimate)	2
Total live and stillbirths	122
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	16.4

2. VITAL STATISTICS (Continued):

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

1960 - (2 deaths were registered - 0 illegitimate)	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	22.0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	22.7
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
1961 - (0 deaths were registered - 0 illegitimate)	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

1960 - (1 death was registered - 0 illegitimate)	1
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	11
Maternal deaths	0
1961 - (0 deaths were registered - 0 illegitimate)	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	0
Maternal deaths	0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE

1960 - (1 death was registered - 0 illegitimate)	1
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	11.0
Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	52.6
1961 - (0 deaths were registered - 0 illegitimate)	0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	0
Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	16.4

3. DEATHS:

(a) Statistics Provided by the Registrar General.

<u>Causes of Death:</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Cancer</u>			
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	4	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	0	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	8	14

3. DEATHS (Continued):

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Heart Diseases</u>			
Coronary disease, angina	12	15	27
Hypertension with heart disease (high blood pressure)	0	1	1
Other heart diseases	9	21	30
Other circulatory diseases	13	17	30
<u>Respiratory Diseases</u>			
Pneumonia	2	3	5
Bronchitis	8	3	11
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
<u>Other Diseases</u>			
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	0	1	1
Diabetes	0	1	1
Vascular disease of nervous system (e.g. cerebral haemorrhage)	9	22	31
Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	4	5
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	0	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	9	13
Accidents	0	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1
Homicide & Operations of War	1	0	1
	<u>83</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>199</u>

(b) Infant Mortality

Deaths of infants under 1 year	0	0	0
TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES:	<u>83</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>199</u>

(c) Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

Crude Death Rate - 19.4. Corrected Death Rate - 10.7.

NOTE:

The deaths from Cancer at 33 are practically the same as those for last year (34).

The deaths from Heart Disease total 88 as against 92 last year, 66 in 1959 and 74 in 1958.

The deaths from Coronary Artery Disease, contrary to the national trend, fell from 43 in 1960 to 27 this year.

4. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1	-	-
Measles	6	-	-
Tuberculosis	2	-	-

5. TUBERCULOSIS:

New Cases and Mortality, 1961.

New Cases Notified:

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 - 14	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	1	-	-
65 upwards	-	1	-	-

Deaths from Tuberculosis - NIL.

6. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946:

(a) The Devon County Council are the Local Health Authority responsible for the Act under Part III. The Hospital Facilities under Part II have been found satisfactory when needed.

(b) Isolation.

Arrangements for the admission of cases of infectious diseases to the Whipton Isolation Hospital at Exeter are satisfactory. The Medical Superintendent and staff are always co-operative and helpful.

(c) Smallpox.

A Smallpox Hospital at Upton Pyne, administered by the Regional Hospital Board, is available in case of need.

(d) Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory has been available when necessary and Dr. Moore is always willing to provide advice and help if required.

(e) Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by the County Council.

(f) Dental Care of Mothers and Young Children.

These facilities are provided by the County Council.

7. (a) OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE:

The importance of increasing the amount of attention devoted to the welfare of old people continues to be stressed by all authorities. The Meals on Wheels Service continues to give a much needed and much appreciated service and it is hoped that expansion may be possible.

The formation of an Old People's Welfare Committee to co-ordinate the work of all organizations in the town working in this field is being discussed and it is hoped that such a Committee may come into being in 1962.

(b) NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No statutory action was found necessary during the year although as always cases come to the notice of the local health authority from time to time and are visited or referred to the Welfare Department of the County Council. The association with (a) above is of course obvious.

8. IMMUNISATION:

The number of inoculations given in the town, as compiled from record cards sent in by General Practitioners, is as follows:-

Triple inoculation 61 primary and 18 booster (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus).

Primary vaccination against Smallpox - 136 and 4 re-vaccinations.

Diphtheria - Tetanus inoculation 1 primary.

Diphtheria inoculation 27 primary and 3 booster.

Tetanus inoculation 2 primary.

Polionyelitis inoculation 32 primary and 34 booster (2 left the district).

These figures when compared with the number of births in the area, namely 120, are quite reasonable but should be improved upon.

B.C.G. vaccination against Tuberculosis was offered in all schools having children aged 13 and upwards. 109 children were given a skin test and 11 showed a positive result, that is, they showed evidence of resistance to the disease acquired through previous exposure to tuberculous infection, but all on investigation were found to be clear of the disease. The children who showed no evidence of resistance were vaccinated with B.C.G.

9. WATER SUPPLIES:

(1) Public Supplies:

The inauguration of the new scheme whereby water is pumped from the new borehole at Sidford to the Core Hill reservoir, met a long felt want and has relieved the day to day anxiety of the Water Department during the peak summer months.

The details of the scheme were included in last year's Report and do not need repeating, but it may not be out of place to remind members that the new borehole, sunk to a depth of 500 feet, gives a maximum yield of 600,000 gallons per day via an electrically driven submersible pump. The water, which is exceptionally pure, is

9. WATER SUPPLIES:

(1) Public Supplies (Continued):

pumped to the new 500,000 gallon reservoir at Core Hill from which it feeds the Peak Hill and Woolbrook Reservoirs as well as augmenting the Bickwell Valley and High Street, Sidford areas.

The following tables indicate the character and quantities of the various sources which make up our public supplies:-

Character and Quantity of Public Supplies

(a) LAND SPRING SUPPLIES:

	<u>Parts per Million</u>	<u>pH Value</u> ***	<u>Maximum Quantity in Gallons per da</u>
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Bernards Farm, Sidbury

Temporary hardness	172	7.8	100,000.
Permanent hardness	16		
TOTAL hardness	188		

Plyford Filter Bed, Sidbury
(including Pinn Hill, Core Copse, Wolverleigh, Verconbes Well)

Temporary hardness	5	5.7	196,000.
Permanent hardness	15		
TOTAL hardness	20		

Core Way, Sidford

Temporary hardness	7	6.4	2,000.
Permanent hardness	31		
TOTAL hardness	38		

Bulverton, Sidmouth

Temporary hardness	263	8.0	1,500.
Permanent hardness	10		
TOTAL hardness	273		

Peak Hill)
Stintway) Retained as a standby.

*** The pH value represents the acidity or alkalinity of water. A pH value of 7 is a neutral water - below that figure the water is soft and acid, and above that alkaline.

(b) BOREHOLES:

Two Existing Boreholes, Sidford

Temporary hardness	217	7.7	264,000.
Permanent hardness	10		
TOTAL hardness	227		

9. WATER SUPPLIES:

(1) Public Supplies (Continued):

(b) <u>BOREHOLES:</u>	<u>Parts per Million</u>	<u>pH Value</u>	<u>Maximum Quantity in Gallons per day</u>
<u>New Borehole, Sidford</u>			
Temporary hardness	220		
Permanent hardness	<u>9</u>	8.0	<u>600,000.</u>
TOTAL hardness	<u>229</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1,163,500.</u>

(2) Devon Water Supply:

Following the County Council's decision not to proceed with the proposal to promote a Bill to set up a single Water Board for the whole County, the Minister decided to take steps to bring the regrouping of water undertakings in Devon to a settlement.

In June, 1961, the Minister published a draft Order setting up a South West Devon Water Board. This, together with alternative proposals embodied in Orders promoted by Torquay and neighbouring authorities, and by the Councils of Plymouth and Plymton St. Mary, was the subject of a Public Inquiry in October, 1961. It is expected that the Minister's decision on these Orders will be made known in the near future.

In April, 1962, the Minister's draft Order enlarging and reconstituting the East Devon Water Board was published. All water undertakings in East Devon (including Exeter) were included by the Draft Order in a reconstituted East Devon Water Board. The existing East Devon Water Board adopted the position that while they would welcome the inclusion of the Exeter undertaking, they would not take any positive steps to bring about that inclusion. All except one of the constituent members of the East Devon Water Board, however, supported the proposals to include the Exeter undertaking in the reconstituted Board. The County Council's view was that the decision must now be one for the Minister. At the same time the County Council expressed the opinion that the adherence of Exeter to the Board would greatly increase its financial strength. The main issue was therefore between the seaside authorities, Budleigh Salterton, Exmouth, Seaton and Sidmouth, plus St. Thomas R.D. Council on the one hand and Exeter City Council on the other. The seaside authorities and St. Thomas R.D.C. supported the Order (except in points of detail) and in particular the inclusion of Exeter and made it clear that they would only acquiesce in the transfer of their own undertaking to a reconstituted Board if the Exeter undertaking was also transferred. Exeter City Council considered that no case existed for the compulsory transfer of the City undertaking.

(3) Private Supplies:

Salcombe Regis

There has been little change since the village was supplied by the East Devon Water Board, although since the installation of the new sanitary and ablution block at the Thorn Caravan Site the quantity in use has no doubt increased. The houses below the Church are still supplied from the spring in the field above "Springfield".

9. WATER SUPPLIES:

(3) Private Supplies (Continued):

Harcombe

Since the collective effort of the consumers whereby a length of the old main was relaid, no further trouble has been experienced. There are three different supplies in the village, as well as individual wells, but the main supply now provides water for eight properties, including one farmhouse.

Sidford

During the year the remaining cottages at the bottom of High Street have been scheduled for demolition and so this old and unsatisfactory supply has now been discontinued.

Fortescue

During the year two more new houses were connected to this supply and it was thought prudent to check on the yield in view of the fact that further building will be connected in the future. It was therefore decided to do this after a dry period in the summer of 1962.

Sidbury

There has been no alteration in respect of the private supplies owned by the Sidbury Manor Estate in 1961.

(4) Distribution:

Public Supplies: Total

Number of properties connected to S.U.D.C. supply	3602	
Number of properties connected to Honiton Hill ram	5	
Number of properties at Salcombe Regis supplied by East Devon Water Board	25	
Number of properties on Lulverton supply	<u>8</u>	3640

Private Supplies:

Salcombe Regis -		
Properties connected to spring	8	
Other private supplies	15	
Harcombe -		
Properties connected to main village supply	8	
Other small supplies or wells	22	
Fortescue - Properties connected	34	
Bowd Properties connected	12	
Sidbury Ridgeway - Properties connected	61	
Greenhead Properties connected	92	
Hatway - Properties connected	20	
Other properties in outlying areas with own private supplies	<u>82</u>	354
Number of properties <u>without</u> water supplies		<u>3</u>
		<u>3997</u>

9. WATER SUPPLIES:

(5) Fluoride:

In view of the controversy over the addition of Fluoride to drinking water in order to protect children's teeth against decay, I think it advisable for the public to know that many waters in East Devon contain naturally occurring Fluoride. When the matter comes to be considered by local authorities, therefore, there will be no question of adding to water supplies something which is not already there.

10. SEWERAGE:

Work on the new sea-outfall was commenced in the early Spring and continued throughout the year. The method of executing the work devised by the Contractors did not prove successful, thereby causing considerable delay, and a revision of their scheme so as to construct a jetty from which to place the pipeline was eventually decided upon.

The new 24" diameter relief sewer across the Ham Car Park to the outfall chamber was constructed and put into use.

11. FOOD:

(a) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

During the year inspections have continued at premises. As was pointed out in my last Report, the Public Health Department is handicapped by the lack of a qualified Assistant but I have, on many occasions, accompanied our Inspector to catering establishments and am now getting very well acquainted with the food trade in the district which on the whole is satisfactory.

(b) Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the district and, as reported last year, there appears to be no demand for an abattoir. The arrangements which have been carried on for the past few years are still in existence, that is, meat is obtained from the Exeter City Abattoir or from a private slaughterhouse at Honiton, and this seems to work satisfactorily. There are 12 butchers' shops in the district and one stall at the Market and the standard is satisfactory. All these shops are registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 for the preparation and manufacture of sausages, preserved meat etc., and during our visits the premises were found satisfactory.

(c) Fish

There are 4 wet fish shops in the area, all with enclosed fronts. As previously reported, one of these shops sells fruit and vegetables although these are kept separate as far as possible. This seems to reflect the modern trend of shopkeeping generally, whereby many varieties of food are sold in one shop. When stocking and selling these two different types of food it is essential for obvious reasons to take great care in their handling, although in this particular case I have never had any cause for complaint.

During the year it was necessary to take informal action in one case where empty fish boxes were stacked at the rear of the premises without being effectively cleaned.

There are 2 local fishmongers, and 1 operating from outside the district, and again these have been found satisfactory.

11. FOOD (Continued):

(d) Milk and Dairies

This is a "specified area" and all milk sold is either pasteurized or tuberculin tested, but the local pasteurizing plant which catered for nearly all the milk within the district has now ceased to operate and is used only as a store, having been taken over by a larger firm. Therefore, all the milk sold in Sidmouth is now pasteurized in Exeter, but it will be recalled that in last year's Annual Report it was anticipated that the plant would eventually be superceded and the administrative and technical work carried on from Exeter which has now happened.

There are 6 registered Dairies but only 4 are fully engaged in dairy work, the others being registered as Dairies for technical reasons. One shop, registered as a Dairy, has changed hands and the new Proprietors have made internal alterations which have improved the working arrangements. The others were found to be satisfactory.

An unusual complaint was received during the year regarding small dark spots found in a bottle of milk. The Public Health Inspector, when investigating, contacted a colleague in a neighbouring district where the milk was bottled and together they visited the plant and interviewed the Manager. It was found that these small dark spots were tiny pieces of rubber which had come away from the inside of a stainless steel tube. This particular tube had been lined with rubber to facilitate the movement on a bend, but the frequent sterilization had caused the rubber lining to disintegrate. Thus the black spots. Needless to say the matter was put right, but it seems strange that a modern pasteurizing plant, made mostly of stainless steel, should have such a poor arrangement incorporated in it.

(e) Ice-Cream

The conditions are similar to previous years, that is, all ice-cream sold in the district is pre-packed or comes from a neighbouring district where it is manufactured. During the year, regular samples were taken and the results can be seen from the tabulated statement below. As expected, the results are good as ice-cream is now being produced under good conditions, mainly by large firms where hygiene is important in its production. Occasionally one comes across a retailer who is still hazy about the proper sterilization of utensils. In such cases advice is willingly given and this usually bears fruit as can be seen from the result of another sample which is usually satisfactory.

Number and Gradings of Ice-Cream Samples

<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
24	21	3	-	-

(f) Bakers and Confectioners

There are still 9 bakehouses in the district although one has now almost ceased except for the production of a few cakes. The business has gradually gone over to general provisions which was mentioned in last year's Report, but the transformation has not yet been completed. The others on inspection were found satisfactory.

(g) General Provisions

In previous Reports there were two separate headings under Grocers and General Provisions, but for this year the two are grouped under the one heading because of the lack of any demarcation line. The grocer's shop has now lost its individuality due partly to the number of types of food which are prepacked, and this, from the point of view of public health is satisfactory, although it is still necessary to visit and pay particular attention to the routine at the rear of the shops, particularly where open food is prepared for sale.

11. FOOD (Continued):

(h) Greengrocers and Fruiterers

As reported previously, there are 8 premises predominantly set aside for this trade, although many general shops now appear to find it possible to sell fruit and vegetables. There are also entering the district from neighbouring authorities several vans which are inspected as time and occasion permits.

(i) Hotels, Restaurants, Cafes

The number of visits to these premises were not as frequent as one could wish, but as with other food premises I accompany the Public Health Inspector whenever possible and those premises visited were generally satisfactory. In one case, however, that of a Fish and Chips Cafe, court action was found necessary under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 due to the bad and unhygienic conditions which were not improved after verbal warnings. The case was proved and the Magistrates imposed fines of £10. on each of the five charges. A great improvement was effected subsequently.

One is never satisfied with the arrangements for the preparation and sale of food, but I think it can safely be said that the standard in the district is generally fairly high.

(j) Unsound Food

The tabulated statement at the end of this Report shows the amount of unsound food condemned during the year. The arrangement for disposal is as previously, that is it is taken to the refuse tip and treated and buried, and this has been found to be reasonably satisfactory.

12. FOOD POISONING:

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

13. HOUSING:

(a) Slum Clearance

The following table summarizes the progress of the Slum Clearance Programme since it was approved and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1956. Members will remember that the report deals with the progress up to the end of 1961, and not to the date of the publication of this Report.

CLEARANCE AREAS

	<u>Address</u>	<u>Orders Confirmed</u> <u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Houses</u> <u>Demolished</u>	<u>Closed</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>1961</u>	1 & 2 Ham Cottages	2	-	-	-	2
	1 - 8 York Street	8	-	-	-	8
<u>Prior</u>	1 - 4 Stowford Cottages	-	4	-	-	4
<u>to</u>	1 - 6 Victoria Cottages	-	6	-	-	6
<u>1961</u>	1 & 2 Mill Street	-	2	-	-	2
	1 & 2 Fuchsia Cottages	-	2	-	-	2
<u>Pending</u>	10 & 11 Mill Street	-	-	-	2	2

13. HOUSING:

(a) Slum Clearance (Continued):

INDIVIDUAL HOUSES

	<u>Address</u>	<u>Orders Confirmed</u> <u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Houses</u> <u>Demolished</u>	<u>Closed</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>1961</u>	Eaton Cottage, Temple Street	-	-	1	-	1
<u>Prior</u>	1 High Street, Sidford	-	-	1	-	1
<u>to</u>	43 York Street	-	1	-	-	1
	2 East Street *	-	-	1	-	1
<u>1961</u>	Trow Cottage *	-	-	1	-	1
	1 Thatched Cottage, Church Street, Sidford *	-	-	1	-	1
	4 Laburnum Cottages, Sidford	-	-	1	-	1
	5 Mill Street	-	-	1	-	1
<u>Pending</u>	Agra, Peaslands Road	-	-	-	1	1
	10 Russell Street	-	-	-	1	1
	The Grove (Part of Building)	-	-	-	1	1
	5 High Street, Sidford	-	-	-	1	1
	2 Riverside, Sidbury	-	-	-	1	1
	4 Landpart Cottages, Temple Street	-	-	-	1	1
	37 Mill Street	-	-	-	1	1
	12 Mill Street	-	-	-	1	1
	35 Russell Street	-	-	-	1	1
	42 Mill Street	-	-	-	1	1
	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>44</u>

* 'Undertaking' under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, lifted after premises had been thoroughly reconditioned in accordance with proposals submitted by the owner and approved by the Council.

- (b) The other facet of Slum Clearance is the rehousing of the occupiers, in fact it is the all important reason for condemning bad houses, and in this connection it was envisaged by the Council that as far as possible persons living in the Eastern Town Area should be rehoused in that area. With this in view, land was purchased as opportunity occurred and the Roxburgh scheme was eventually agreed after considerable discussion. This involved building a four storey block of flats on pillars, thus making car space available at ground level. On completion there will be 6 one bedroom and 9 two bedroom flats available. Unfortunately, the demolitions and consequent rehusings were in advance of the building so that most of the tenants from this area have been rehoused in the new extensions at Lymebourne Park, although a promise has been given that they will have an opportunity to transfer if necessary.

13. HOUSING:

(b) Slum Clearance (Continued):

The Lymebourne Park scheme provided 16 bed-sitters and 6 one bedroom flats for old people, with 2 three bedroom flats on the third storey of the "bed-sitter" block. One of these is occupied by a Warden and her family and a innovation worth mentioning is a bell system which enables any of the old people to summon the Warden if in difficulty or ill. As the Council owned the land at Lymebourne this scheme was able to be carried out without undue delay.

The County Welfare Department were interested in the scheme from the start and in fact the Chairman of the County Council, Sir George C. Hayter-Hames, C.B.E. officially opened it on the 29th January, 1962. This has been a most successful venture and not only has it enabled old people to be rehoused from slum clearance properties and the housing list, but also allowed the Council to transfer old persons from under occupied houses in the Council estates, thus helping to make more houses available.

Another scheme worth mentioning, although not directly concerned with slum clearance, is the building of 70 houses at Tyrrel Mead for sale, it being intended to make houses available for sale to persons who normally could not afford the current prices of property or were unlikely to get rehoused from the general housing list.

(c) Improvement Grants

The Public Health Inspector is the technical officer responsible for the operation of this scheme. The following table shows the position for the past three years. Prior to 1959, there were 10 applications, of which only 4 were approved and the percentage of grant varied between 25% and 40%. Since the coming into operation of the Standard Grant scheme in June, 1959 whereby applicants can claim the grant of 50% by right subject to certain conditions, the Council have stabilized the position and given the maximum of 50% for each type of grant. There are still a large number of houses in the district without the basic amenities, and the intention behind the scheme is to encourage owners to improve the older houses and prevent their decay and eventual deterioration to slums.

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Applications, Approvals and Grants Paid under Section 30 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>Applications</u>		<u>Completions and Grants Paid</u>	
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Dwellings Completed</u>	<u>Grants Paid</u>
1959	6	5	8	£ 1,550.
1960	8	7	1	£ 400.
1961	8	7	11	£ 3,240.
				<u>£ 5,190.</u>

3. HOUSING:

(c) Improvement Grants (Continued):

STANDARD GRANTS

Applications, Approvals and Grants Paid under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

	<u>Applications</u>		<u>Completions and Grants Paid</u> <u>Standard Amenities Installed</u>						
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Dwellings Completed</u>	<u>Fixed Bath</u>	<u>Wash Hand Basin</u>	<u>Hot Water</u>	<u>Water Closet</u>	<u>Food Storage</u>	<u>Grants Paid</u>
1959	12	10	1	1	1	1	-	-	£ 105.
1960	22	21	18	17	18	17	4	5	£ 1,402.
1961	14	17	17	15	17	17	7	9	£ 1,742.
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>£ 3,249.</u>

(d) Building Programme

I have again included a table showing the total building programme for the past 10 years, as follows:-

(a)	Built by the Local Authority	18 (Lymebourne Flats).
(b)	Built by Others - Houses	23
	Bungalows	52
	Conversions	8
		<u>101</u>

TABLE SHOWING BUILDING DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS

NOTE: Houses include flats where they are new erections, otherwise flats are included under conversions.

<u>YEAR</u>		<u>By L.A.</u>	<u>By Others</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
1952	Houses	14	7	21	41
	Bungalows	4	1	5	
	Conversions	4	11	15	
1953	Houses	NIL	34	34	59
	Bungalows	NIL	13	13	
	Conversions	NIL	12	12	
1954	Houses	NIL	38	38	77
	Bungalows	NIL	33	33	
	Conversions	NIL	6	6	
1955	Houses	NIL	27	27	78
	Bungalows	NIL	50	50	
	Conversions	NIL	1	1	
1956	Houses	NIL	17	17	60
	Bungalows	NIL	38	38	
	Conversions	NIL	5	5	

13. HOUSING:

(d) Building Programme (Continued):

<u>YEAR</u>		<u>By L.A.</u>	<u>By Others</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
1957	Houses	6	14	20	86
	Bungalows	NIL	53	53	
	Conversions	NIL	13	13	
1958	Houses	NIL	12	12	72
	Bungalows	NIL	49	49	
	Conversions	NIL	11	11	
1959	Houses	24 (Flats)	34 (21 Flats)	58	114
	Bungalows	NIL	52	52	
	Conversions	NIL	4	4	
1960	Houses	NIL	35 (21 Flats)	35	87
	Bungalows	NIL	42	42	
	Conversions	NIL	10	10	
1961	Houses	18 (Flats)	23	41	101
	Bungalows	NIL	52	52	
	Conversions	NIL	8	8	
<u>TOTALS</u>	Houses	62	241	303	775
	Bungalows	4	383	387	
	Conversions	<u>4</u>	<u>81</u>	85	
		<u>70</u>	<u>705</u>		

14. CAMPING:

The coming into operation of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 has not had a very great impact on the three licensed sites at Sidmouth as co-operation between the Public Health Department and the site owners has always been satisfactory. The amenities required in the Conditions of the Site Licences were installed in each case without delay.

The three licensed sites are:-

- Dunscombe Manor Farm, Salcombe Regis - 50
- Thorn Camping Site, Salcombe Regis - 50
- Slade Farm, Salcombe Regis - 4

15. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES:

Some difficulty was experienced with female labour during the summer owing to the regular attendant leaving without notice. It is increasingly difficult to maintain our 'Sidmouth' standard during the peak period and this was especially so at Connaught Gardens where the use is governed almost exclusively by the weather and can vary enormously from day to day. The three W.Cs at the Ladies side are totally inadequate to deal with the beach crowds at periodic times and it is gratifying to know that it is proposed to rebuild entirely, renovate and enlarge these Conveniences. The re-conditioning and enlargement of the Sidford Conveniences had not been completed by the end of the year, although they were ready for Easter, 1962 and are a great improvement.

16. RODENT CONTROL:

From year to year it is found that the number of treatments at domestic premises does not vary very much and before making the nominal charge of 5/- it is usual to survey the immediate area.

A heavy infestation was treated at one farm and an increase was noted in other trade premises. The usual sewer treatments showed that there are some small residual infestations in the same areas, mostly where it is known that sewers are old and defective, but the regular treatment prevents any "build up".

17. REFUSE DISPOSAL:

Since the bulldozer has been working at the bottom of the Tip and refuse is delivered to the bottom by a chute, a great improvement has been effected. Honiton Rural District Council make use of the facilities by arrangement with the Council.

18. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 - 1959:

(a) <u>Inspections:</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>on</u> <u>Register</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Written</u> <u>Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers</u> <u>Prosecuted</u>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	22	9	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	4	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

(b) Cases in which defects were found:

NIL.

19. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION:

(a) Disinfection

The Equifix Steam Disinfector at Manstone Depot is still doing useful work, although old, but the boiler is beginning to show its age and it is anticipated that within the next few years may have to be replaced. Its use is intermittent at present, but nevertheless a steam disinfector is still a most useful piece of equipment and in fact is the only one in the six districts of East Devon.

19. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION (Continued):

(b) Verminous Persons and Premises

Two cases were dealt with during the year, one of fleas and one of bed bugs reported by the Health Visitor after one of our Council tenants had returned after a lengthy sojourn in London with relatives. After treatment no recurrence has been noted which is an indication of the usefulness of the modern techniques and insecticides in contrast to the treatment and general upset which would have been caused a quarter of a century ago.

20. PETROLEUM:

Although this is not a matter which is directly concerned with public health, it is worth mentioning here as the Public Health Inspector is the designated Petroleum Inspector and has to spend some time on visits of inspection and tests of old tanks, it now being a condition of all Licences that tanks 20 years old are tested every five years. A chart has been prepared showing the year when all the 78 listed tanks are due for test, in order to keep an accurate record. As far as possible the work of testing has been spread as much as possible so as to avoid overloading in any one year.

There are 33 premises registered in the district and the introduction of the booklet with the stick-on type of licence, in use in all six districts, has been found to work very well.

21. DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

The Council is responsible for the inspection and licensing of premises and persons under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957 and a number of visits have been made by the Public Health Inspector or his Assistant to ensure that the conditions of Licences are complied with. In one case, brought to the notice of the Council, a Licence was refused until certain works had been carried out including the concreting of a yard, etc.

There are 5 Licences in operation in the district, one fewer than previously.

22. INSPECTIONS:

The following inspections of food premises were carried out during the year:-

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number of Visits</u>
Hotels	42	27
Guest Houses	20	2
Restaurants and Cafes	19	25
Fish and Chip Shops	2	5
Butchers	12	7
Bakers and Confectioners	9	12
Dairies	6	8
Fishmongers	4	9
Grocers and General Provisions	30	28
Greengrocers	8	4
School Canteens & Boarding Schools	4	2
Mobile Shops	1	-
Public Houses (excluding Hotels with Licence)	16	4
Market - Butcher, 2 Greengrocers	3 Stalls	5
Number of Statutory Notices served - NIL.		

23. UN SOUND FOOD:

The following amounts of unsound food were examined and condemned on voluntary surrender for destruction or salvage during the year:-

(a) Meat and Meat Products

320 lbs.

(b) Fruit and Vegetables

25 tins.

(c) Fish and Fish Products

33 lbs.

55 packets Frozen Fish.
